

CLAIMS

1. Method for positioning a flexible printing plate on a carrier, comprising the following steps of:
 - 5 - placing on a table the flexible printing plate for positioning;
 - determining the position of the printing plate by means of a visual display device; and
 - depending on the position, moving the printing
- 10 plate to its end position on the carrier,
characterized in that the position of the carrier is sensed in the vicinity of the final position and that the carrier is moved to its end position depending on the position sensed in the vicinity of the final
- 15 position.
2. Method as claimed in claim 1, **characterized in that** the position of the printing plate in the vicinity of its end position is sensed by a camera.
3. Method as claimed in claim 2, **characterized in that** the actual position of the printing plate and the end position of the printing plate are compared in a digital device coupled to the camera.
- 20 4. Method as claimed in claim 3, **characterized in that** the displacement is controlled subject to the result of the comparison.
- 25 5. Method as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, **characterized in that** the several printing plates positioned on the table are positioned successively.
- 30 6. Method as claimed in claim 2, comprising of the camera zooming-in on the printing plate in order to increase the accuracy of the positioning of the printing plate.
- 35 7. Method as claimed in any of the foregoing claims, comprising of repeating the sensing of the

position of the carrier and the comparison of the sensed position to the end position until the end position has been obtained with sufficient accuracy.

8. Method as claimed in any of the foregoing
5 claims, wherein placing on a table of the flexible printing plate for positioning and determining of the position of the printing plate by means of a visual display device take place simultaneously.

9. Device for positioning a printing plate on a
10 carrier, comprising a table for positioning the at least one printing plate for positioning, support means for supporting the carrier on which the printing plate must be positioned, at least one camera for recording the image of the printing plate, a manipulator for
15 transporting the printing plate to the carrier placed on the support means, and a control means which is adapted to control the manipulator and which is connected to the camera to obtain signals coming from the camera,
characterized in that the at least one camera is placed
20 for sensing the printing plate in the vicinity of the support means.

10. Device as claimed in claim 9, **characterized in that** the device comprises a digital device for comparing the actual position of the printing plate and the
25 desired end position of the printing plate.

11. Device as claimed in claim 10, **characterized in that** the digital device is adapted to control the displacement subject to the result of the comparison.

12. Device as claimed in any of the claims 9-11,
30 **characterized in that** the device is suitable for successively positioning several printing plates placed on top of each other on the table.

13. Device as claimed in any of the claims 9-12,
characterized in that the control means is adapted to
35 transport the printing plate, independently of the image

displayed by the at least one camera, from the table to that part of the machine being recorded by the at least one camera.

14. Device as claimed in claim 13, **characterized in**
5 **that** the control means is adapted to compare the recorded image to an image stored in the memory.

15. Device as claimed in claim 14, **characterized in**
that the control means is provided with software for image comparison.

10 16. Device as claimed in any of the claims 9-15, wherein the camera comprises a zoom means for zooming-in on the printing plate in order to increase the accuracy of the positioning of the printing plate.

15 17. Device as claimed in any of the claims 9-16,
wherein the computer is adapted to repeat the sensing of the position of the carrier, the comparing of the sensed position to the end position and the controlling of the manipulator until the end position has been reached.

18. Device as claimed in any of the claims 9-17,
20 wherein the manipulator comprises a displaceable carriage with pick-up device with which a printing plate can be picked up and displaced to the carrier.

19. Device as claimed in any of the claims 9-17,
wherein the manipulator comprises a displaceable
25 pressing element for co-displacing the printing plate to the carrier by friction.

20. Device as claimed in any of the claims 9-19,
wherein the manipulator and camera are adapted to displace and sens the printing plate simultaneously.